



# CHINFO NEWS CLIPS

Wednesday, July 03, 2019

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## **On This Day In The Navy:**

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- Multiple outlets report that a fire aboard the secretive Russian submarine Losharik killed 14 sailors on Monday. Putin called the incident a "Great Loss."
- USNI News reports that USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) and its carrier strike group will likely deploy this fall in the place of the Eisenhower CSG due to a longer than expected maintenance availability.
- Cindy McCain and the sons of the late Sen. John McCain celebrated the 25th year of commissioned service of USS John S. McCain (DDG 56) at a ceremony in Yokosuka, Japan.

## **GREAT POWER COMPETITION:**

### **1. 14 Sailors Die On Secretive Russian Nuclear Submarine; Putin Calls Incident 'Great Loss'**

(USNI NEWS 02 JUL 19) ... Sam LaGrone and Ben Werner

A fire that broke out on a secret Russian submarine has killed 14 sailors, according to a statement from the Ministry of Defense in Moscow.

### **2. Pentagon Says China Missile Test In South China Sea 'Disturbing'**

(REUTERS 02 JUL 19)

WASHINGTON - The Pentagon said on Tuesday a recent Chinese missile launch in the disputed South China Sea was "disturbing" and contrary to Chinese pledges that it would not militarize the disputed waterway.

### **3. The PLARF's New Hainan Island Base and China's Recent Anti-Ship Ballistic Missile Tests**

*The first-known Chinese tests of an anti-ship ballistic missile into the South China Sea may have inaugurated a new PLARF base.*

(THE DIPLOMAT 02 JUL 19) ... Ankit Panda

This week, U.S. officials have told media here that China has, for the first known time, conducted tests of unspecified anti-ship ballistic missiles into its near seas—specifically the South China Sea this time. The development marks an important new kind of Chinese military activity in the area.

### **4. Russia Eager To Prove Recent Conflicts Improved Its Robots**

(C4ISRNET 02 JUL 19) ... Kelsey D. Atherton

When it comes to selling a second generation of war robots, it helps for them to have combat experience. At Russia's Army 2019 Exposition, where the nation showcases its latest in military hardware, designs ranged from hand-tossed drones to high-flying ISR platforms to optionally manned armored vehicles. On display, too, are claims of machines that saw action in Syria and have been refitted based on lessons learned.



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Friday, July 05, 2019

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- Today's national headlines are dominated by a 6.4 magnitude earthquake in Southern California and the 'Salute to America' 4th of July event which included military flyovers and a speech by President Trump.
- The New York Times reports that British marines in Gibraltar detained a supertanker that was carrying crude oil from Iran to Syria in violation of sanctions.
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- USS Ronald Reagan arrived in Brisbane ahead of the Talisman Sabre Military exercise with the Australian military.

## **GREAT POWER COMPETITION:**

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*Fire that killed 14 sailors was isolated from submarine's nuclear reactor, says Russian defense minister*

(WALL STREET JOURNAL 04 JUL 19) ... Georgi Kantchev

MOSCOW—A secret Russian military submarine that caught on fire killing 14 sailors earlier this week was nuclear-powered, the government said Thursday, amid criticism that authorities withheld information about the country's deadliest naval accident in more than a decade.

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(USNI NEWS 04 JUL 19) ... Sam LaGrone

The head of the Russian military released a handful of additional details about the fire aboard a specialized submarine that killed 14 submariners in the Barents Sea on Monday.

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(NEW YORK TIMES 05 JUL 19) ... Jason Horowitz

ROME — Pope Francis is viewed by many European liberals as the greatest moral voice against the resurgence in populism and the demonization of migrants.

### **4. Report: Russia to Produce 60 Avangard Hypersonic Boost-Glide Warheads**

*According to the Russian government, the production and delivery of the Avangard warhead is proceeding without any delays.*

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## **FLEET READINESS:**

### **5. Navy Needs To Think Small When Planning Irregular Surface Warfare Strategies**

(USNI NEWS 03 JUL 19) ... John Grady

WASHINGTON: As tensions rise between Russia and Ukraine on the Black Sea, the US is upgrading several Ukrainian naval bases to give American and NATO warships the ability to dock just miles from Russia-controlled Crimea.

#### **16. 4th Fleet-Led UNITAS 2019 Pacific Exercise Focuses on Sub-Hunting, Humanitarian Assistance**

(USNI NEWS 04 JUL 19) ... Megan Eckstein

The U.S. Navy and its partners in Central and South America just wrapped up the UNITAS 2019 Pacific exercise, with a U.S. destroyer leading the 13-nation force through an anti-submarine and surface warfare drill.

#### **17. Navy Sends Second Ship To Gulf Of Guinea In West Africa**

(UPI.COM 03 JUL 19) ... Allen Cone

The U.S. Navy has dispatched a second ship, the USNS Carson City, this year to the Gulf of Guinea on West Africa's southern coast to help deal with security needs, including piracy.

#### **18. Navy Mark VI, Coast Guard Patrol Boats Visit Yap, Micronesia**

(CPF.NAVY.MIL 04 JUL 19) ... MC2 Jasen Moreno-Garcia, Task Force 75

COLONIA, Yap - Two Mark VI patrol boats, attached to Coastal Riverine Squadron (CRS) 2, along with the Island-class patrol boat USCGC Kiska (WPB 1336) arrived in Yap, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), July 3 for a port visit.

### **EXECUTIVE/LEGISLATIVE:**

#### **19. President Delivers Elaborate Celebration**

*President's 'Salute to America' featured flyovers by military jets, armored vehicles, tanks and fireworks*

(WALL STREET JOURNAL 05 JUL 19) ... Alex Leary and Stephanie Armour

WASHINGTON—President Trump delivered his elaborate Fourth of July celebration, defying critics and honoring the military.

### **PERSONNEL READINESS & VETERANS:**

#### **20. Remembering Capt. Pete Tzomes**

(THE SEXTANT 03 JUL 19)

A note from the editor: Capt. C.A. "Pete" Tzomes—the first African American to command a nuclear-powered submarine—died at the University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics, Iowa City, IA, June 13. He was 74. He was the first of the "Centennial Seven," who were the only seven African American men to command submarines during the first 100 years of the U.S. Navy submarine force.

#### **21. Honoring Brothers And Sisters In Arms And NATO Alliances**

(C6F.NAVY.MIL 03 JUL 19) ... U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa/U.S. 6th Fleet Public Affairs

At the end of June, Adm. James G. Foggo III, commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa and commander, Allied Joint Force Command Naples, Italy, recorded the 10th episode of the podcast "On the Horizon: Navigating the European and African Theater."

#### **22. After Navy SEAL's Acquittal, Fears That War Crimes Will Go Unreported**

(NEW YORK TIMES 04 JUL 19) ... Dave Philipps

SAN DIEGO -- Edward Gallagher, a decorated member of the Navy SEALs, was pleased and relieved when he emerged from his court-martial on Wednesday with just a demotion and time served, and not the life sentence he could have faced if convicted on the most serious charges. But many in the Navy were in no mood to celebrate.

#### **23. Mail-In Ancestry DNA Kits May Help Enemy To Target You, Navy's Top Officer Says**

(MILITARY.COM 03 JUL 19) ... Gina Harkins

The Navy's top officer warned against using popular at-home ancestry DNA test kits this week, saying scientific advancements are making biological weapons more tailorable.

#### **24. Miss This Deadline And You Can't Advance**

(NAVY TIMES 04 JUL 19) ... Mark D. Faram

Thousands of sailors could miss out on their chance to advance this fall if they fail to meet a looming deadline.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL/INSTALLATIONS:**

#### **25. Southern California Rocked By Strongest Quake In Two Decades**

(AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE 04 JUL 19)

Southern California was rocked by its largest earthquake in two decades on Thursday, a 6.4-magnitude tremor that caused "substantial damage" at a military facility but otherwise only minor injuries in the sparsely populated area.

everything, I hope we can keep this relationship going strong for many years.”

The Mark VI patrol boat is an integral part of the expeditionary forces support to 7th Fleet, capability of supporting myriad of missions throughout the Indo-Pacific.

Since Navy Expeditionary Forces Command Pacific’s (NEFCPAC) creation in January 2015, expeditionary forces in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) region have become completely integrated into the seventh fleet combat readiness scheme and have built and maintained multinational partnerships that have been providing regional stability and security for more than seventy years.

As an organization, NEFCPAC executes operational command and control of assigned and attached Navy

[Return to Index](#)

Expeditionary Combat Forces in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations and serves as the core Navy battle staff for crisis response and major combat operations. They plan and execute coastal riverine, explosive ordnance disposal, diving operations, construction and Navy expeditionary logistics operations.

NEFCPAC is capable of providing the fleet diverse warfighting capabilities such as coastal riverine support, explosive ordnance disposal, diving, salvage and construction capabilities, as well as expeditionary intelligence and logistics in near-shore waters, littoral regions and inland areas.

<https://www.cpf.navy.mil/news.aspx/130490>

## EXECUTIVE/LEGISLATIVE:

### 19. President Delivers Elaborate Celebration

#### *President’s ‘Salute to America’ featured flyovers by military jets, armored vehicles, tanks and fireworks*

(WALL STREET JOURNAL 05 JUL 19) ... Alex Leary and Stephanie Armour

WASHINGTON—President Trump delivered his elaborate Fourth of July celebration, defying critics and honoring the military.

Rain fell throughout a hot, muggy afternoon in the nation’s capital, but thousands showed up to hear the evening address, part of Mr. Trump’s “Salute to America” that featured flyovers of booming jet fighters, military bands, tanks, armored vehicles and fireworks. Hundreds of troops were on hand as well as invited guests.

“Together, we are part of one of the greatest stories ever told—the story of America,” Mr. Trump said from the Lincoln Memorial. “Today, just as it did 243 years ago, the future of American Freedom rests on the shoulders of men and women willing to defend it.”

In a 45-minute address, Mr. Trump stuck to a script designed to celebrate nationhood and the military, but avoided the political messaging many critics had warned he might include. Instead, the president traced the nation’s history from the Founding Fathers to the moon landing. He reveled in a legacy of rock ‘n’ roll, Western movies, the Super Bowl, the assembly line and the “mighty American automobile.” He named key figures from Harriet Tubman to Jackie Robinson, Douglas MacArthur and John Glenn.

The president honored firefighters and law enforcement, including the border patrol, and made an appeal for youths to “make a great statement in life” and join the military.

Mr. Trump singled out each branch of the military—the Coast Guard, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and Army—recounting heroic actions and battles before pausing for flyovers by aircraft from each branch, a band playing service songs.

“We will always be the people who defeated a tyrant, crossed a continent, harnessed science, took to the skies and soared into the heavens,” Mr. Trump said, the crowd often responding with chants of “U.S.A., U.S.A., USA.”

“We will never forget that we are Americans, and the future belongs to us,” the president said.

It was among the most elaborate Independence Day events ever staged on the National Mall, and Mr. Trump had a

personal hand in the planning, predicting in a tweet it would be “one of the biggest celebrations in the history of our Country.”

The event sought to fulfill a long-held goal of Mr. Trump to showcase the nation’s military with the similar gusto of a Paris Bastille Day parade he watched in 2017.

“As long as we stay true to our cause, as long as we remember our great history, and as long as we never stop fighting for a better future, then there will be nothing that America cannot do,” Mr. Trump said.

Protesters, including activists with an 18-foot “Baby Trump” balloon, also took to the Mall with anti-Trump and antiwar messages. The event has been the target of criticism from Democrats for its cost—estimated in the millions of dollars but not confirmed by the administration—and the use of military hardware for a traditionally nonpartisan celebration. The Pentagon has said it wouldn’t have cost estimates until next week at the earliest.

The event provided a platform for Mr. Trump, who announced his re-election campaign last month, to reach millions of potential viewers at a time when a number of polls show his approval rating at around 40%. An earlier effort by the president to stage a military parade fizzled over concerns about cost and logistics.

The celebration included a parade earlier in the day, and planned fireworks that were donated by two private companies. Also featured were two Bradley Fighting Vehicles and two 60-ton Abrams tanks, displayed near the memorial.

A ticketed seating section for family, friends, military and government officials was set up at the Lincoln Memorial. Other long-running Independence Day events—including a concert at the U.S. Capitol—continued as usual.

The president’s pageant marks a sharp break from tradition. Previous presidents’ activities included celebrations on the White House’s South Lawn, as well as holding naturalization ceremonies and visiting festivities around the country.

The reaction to Mr. Trump’s extravaganza extended to the Rolling Stones concert on Wednesday, a night before the



Moran said his decision to decline his appointment and to instead retire was based also on what he called an open investigation into "the nature of some of my personal email correspondence over the past couple of years." He also cited the Servello relationship, without using his name.

"To be clear," Moran added, "my decision to maintain this relationship was in no way an endorsement or tacit approval of" the kind of misconduct that Servello was disciplined for. "I understand how toxic it can be to any team when inappropriate behavior goes unrecognized and unchecked. Every Sailor is entitled to serve in an environment free of harassment or intimidation."

With Moran's departure, Richardson will extend his tenure as Navy chief and Spencer said he would recommend a new candidate for nomination by Trump and consideration by the Senate. Richardson's official retirement date is in September.

Moran is a naval aviator by training. He has been serving as the deputy chief of naval operations, the No. 2 uniformed position in the Navy behind Richardson. He was nominated in April to succeed Richardson and was confirmed for the post by the Senate in May.

[Return to Index](#)

## 21. Economy Gets Tough On Military Recruiters *Pull of private sector increases competition*

(WASHINGTON TIMES 07 JUL 19) ... Ben Wolfgang

A directive to recruit more troops coupled with a thriving U.S. economy has sparked a "perfect storm" and created one of the toughest environments in decades for uniformed recruiters, Pentagon officials and outside analysts say, as the military doles out bigger bonuses and tweaks its approach in order to attract the nation's best young talent.

Booming employment markets — the U.S. economy added a strong 224,000 jobs in June, the government said Friday — and soaring stock values on Wall Street traditionally have made it difficult for military recruiters to pitch men and women on a career in the armed forces, according to researchers, who say the correlation has held true for at least a half century.

But the sustained strength of the U.S. economy over the past five years has taken the challenge to a whole new level, and the true depth of the problem came into focus last year when the Army fell short of its recruiting goal for the first time in over a decade.

The commander in chief even took time during his Fourth of July "Salute to America" event to pitch the idea of military service and on Friday was already claiming results.

"Our job numbers are so good that our military has a hard time getting people," Mr. Trump acknowledged to reporters on the White House lawn Friday, "and I think really you're going to see a big spike. I've already heard it, a lot of people calling in."

The Pentagon could use the help.

The Army set a goal of 76,500 recruits and pulled in fewer than 70,000, according to Defense Department figures.

The Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps hit their goals last fiscal year, though the services barely cleared the bar in some cases. The Navy's goal was 39,000 and signed up 39,018 recruits, Pentagon numbers show. The Marine Corps beat its

Moran's downfall adds to an unusually long list of leadership questions facing the Pentagon, which has been operating without a Senate-confirm defense secretary since Jim Mattis resigned in December 2018. There also is no confirmed deputy secretary of defense, and several other key leadership positions are about to turn over.

Mark Esper, who had been Army secretary, is now the acting secretary of defense, but Trump has not yet sent his nomination to the Senate.

Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford is due to step down as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff this fall. His intended successor, Army Gen. Mark Milley, is scheduled to testify at his confirmation hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee on Thursday.

Also on Thursday, Gen. David Berger is scheduled to take over as commandant of the Marine Corps, succeeding Gen. Robert Neller.

Air Force Gen. Paul Selva, the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is due to retire on July 31. Gen. John Hyten has been nominated to succeed Selva, but he has not yet had a confirmation hearing.

<https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/wireStory/admiral-lead-navy-retire-bad-judgment-cited-64184086>

31,556 goal by 11 recruits, and the Air Force exceeded its 29,450 threshold by 893.

Although each of the services, including the Army, expect to hit their goals this year, analysts say, the military has compounded its recruiting challenge by trying to expand the size of its ranks. The Army, for example, is aiming for a 500,000-member active-duty force over the next 10 years, meaning it needs to maintain aggressive recruiting goals to keep up.

"Consistently, the research finds that recruiting is more difficult, the supply of high-quality recruits is more difficult when the economy is booming," said Beth J. Asch, a senior economist at the Rand Corp. who specializes in military recruiting. "There's another factor here, which adds the cherry on top. The Army is growing, as are the other services. So you have a bit of a perfect storm of a really strong economy and having a larger force."

Army officials seem confident that they will meet their mark this year, though they readily acknowledge that they are facing headwinds.

"This environment is as challenging as we've faced — 3.6% unemployment. We have no benchmark historically for the all-volunteer force," acting Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy recently told the Military Times. "We statistically can make it, but we're going to have to run through the finish line — undoubtedly a full sprint."

Multipronged approach

To avoid a repeat of last year's shortfall, the Army is taking a multipronged approach. Army officials this month said they will offer bonuses of up to \$40,000 for some recruits who sign a six-year commitment.

The Army's total of enlistment bonuses rose by \$115 million last year, according to The Associated Press, and

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#### FLEET READINESS:

5. Truman Carrier Strike Group Will Replace Eisenhower CSG For Upcoming Deployment  
(USNI NEWS 02 JUL 19) ... Megan Eckstein

USS Harry S. Truman (CVN-75) and its carrier strike group are getting ready for another deployment overseas, after completing a two-part deployment last year.

6. Cindy McCain, Family Celebrate 25th Commissioning Anniversary Of USS John S. McCain  
(AZCENTRAL.COM 02 JUL 19) ... Yvonne Wingett Sanchez

Cindy McCain and the sons of the late Sen. John McCain celebrated the 25th year of commissioned service of "Big Bad John," the U.S. Navy destroyer named after the McCain forefathers that is docked in her home port of Yokosuka, Japan.

7. USS Stethem Heads To San Diego After 14 Years In Japan  
(USNI NEWS 02 JUL 19) ... Ben Werner

USS Stethem (DDG-63) returned U.S. 3rd Fleet over the weekend, as the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer steams its new homeport, San Diego, Calif.

#### SECURITY ENVIRONMENT:

8. Navy Chief Anticipates 3D-Printed Nuclear Weapons

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#### FLEET READINESS:

##### 5. Navy Needs To Think Small When Planning Irregular Surface Warfare Strategies

(USNI NEWS 03 JUL 19) ... John Grady

Great power competition dramatically expands the challenges of confronting irregular naval warfare such as defending against maritime pirates or preserving the security of data sent through undersea cables, a panel of experts said at the Hudson Institute last week.

##### 6. Navy Completed Hellfire Tests on Littoral Combat Ship, Will Likely Deploy Later This Year

(USNI NEWS 03 JUL 19) ... Megan Eckstein

The Navy has finished the structural testing needed to confirm that the Hellfire anti-surface missile can safely operate on the Littoral Combat Ship, and the missile will go out on a ship deployment later this year, USNI News understands.

##### 7. Why The Navy Will Deploy The Truman Carrier Strike Group (Again)

(NAVY TIMES 04 JUL 19) ... Mark D. Faram

Norfolk — The aircraft carrier Harry S. Truman and her strike group will deploy soon, a move officials say has been in the works for two years.

#### SECURITY ENVIRONMENT:

##### 8. Gibraltar Detains Oil Supertanker Bound for Syria

(NEW YORK TIMES 05 JUL 19) ... Palko Karasz and Raphael Minder

LONDON — The British marines and the port authorities in Gibraltar on Thursday detained a supertanker that was carrying crude oil from Iran to Syria, a violation of European Union sanctions against Syria. The seizure of the ship threatened to raise tensions between Iran and the West.

9. U.N. Urges Venezuela To End 'Grave' Human-Rights Offenses

President Nicolás Maduro's regime jailed thousands of political opponents and carried out extrajudicial killings, new report finds

(WALL STREET JOURNAL 04 JUL 19) ... Ryan Dube

The United Nations urged Venezuela's authoritarian government to address what it calls grave violations of economic, social and civil rights.

10. Fearing Iranian Attacks, Trump Aims To Rally Allies To Escort Ships In Strait Of Hormuz

(MCCLATCHY 04 JUL 19) ... Michael Wilner

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration is advancing a plan to escort or accompany ships through the Strait of Hormuz with international assistance, fearing an increase in attacks on oil tankers by Iranian forces.

11. Even For A Limited Nuclear Deal, North Korea May Settle For Nothing Less Than Sanctions Relief

(REUTERS 04 JUL 19) ... Josh Smith

SEOUL - A new public broadside by North Korean officials against U.S.-backed sanctions highlights the tough road ahead as negotiators prepare for talks in the wake of Sunday's meeting between U.S.

President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

12. Iran Could Consider Talks With U.S. Only If Sanctions Lifted, Khamenei Permits: Minister

(REUTERS 04 JUL 19)

DUBAI - Iran's intelligence minister has said Tehran and Washington could hold talks only if the United States ended its sanctions and Iran's top authority, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, gave his approval, state news agency IRNA reported on Thursday.

13. Suspected Iranian Cyber Attacks Show No Sign of Slowing

As Iran and the U.S. trade cyber blows, a new warning shows that the online fight is likely to go on.

(DEFENSE ONE 03 JUL 19) ... Patrick Tucker

Tensions between the United States and Iran in the Strait of Hormuz may be cooling but, online, it appears Iranian actors are continuing their activity against targets in the United States and elsewhere.

ALLIES & PARTNERS:

14. Ronald Reagan Strike Group Arrives In Australia For Port Visit

(CPF.NAVY.MIL 04 JUL 19) ... MC3 Codie L. Soule, Task Force 70

BRISBANE, Australia - Ships of the Ronald Reagan Strike Group arrived in Brisbane, Australia, on July 5 for a regularly scheduled port visit.

15. U.S. Upgrades Ukrainian Ports To Fit American Warships

(BREAKING DEFENSE 04 JUL 19) ... Paul McLeary

WASHINGTON: As tensions rise between Russia and Ukraine on the Black Sea, the US is upgrading several Ukrainian naval bases to give American and NATO warships the ability to dock just miles from Russia-controlled Crimea.

16. 4th Fleet-Led UNITAS 2019 Pacific Exercise Focuses on Sub-Hunting, Humanitarian Assistance

(USNI NEWS 04 JUL 19) ... Megan Eckstein

The U.S. Navy and its partners in Central and South America just wrapped up the UNITAS 2019 Pacific exercise, with a U.S. destroyer leading the 13-nation force through an anti-submarine and surface warfare drill.

17. Navy Sends Second Ship To Gulf Of Guinea In West Africa

(UPI.COM 03 JUL 19) ... Allen Cone

The U.S. Navy has dispatched a second ship, the USNS Carson City, this year to the Gulf of Guinea on West Africa's southern coast to help deal with security needs, including piracy.

18. Navy Mark VI, Coast Guard Patrol Boats Visit Yap, Micronesia

(CPF.NAVY.MIL 04 JUL 19) ... MC2 Jasen Moreno-Garcia, Task Force 75

COLONIA, Yap - Two Mark VI patrol boats, attached to Coastal Riverine Squadron (CRS) 2, along with the Island-class patrol boat USCGC Kiska (WPB 1336) arrived in Yap, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), July 3 for a port visit.

EXECUTIVE/LEGISLATIVE:

19. President Delivers Elaborate Celebration

President's 'Salute to America' featured flyovers by military jets, armored vehicles, tanks and fireworks (WALL STREET JOURNAL 05 JUL 19) ... Alex Leary and Stephanie Armour

WASHINGTON—President Trump delivered his elaborate Fourth of July celebration, defying critics and honoring the military.

PERSONNEL READINESS & VETERANS:



integrated into the seventh fleet combat readiness scheme and have built and maintained multinational partnerships that have been providing regional stability and security for more than seventy years. As an organization, NEFCPAC executes operational command and control of assigned and attached Navy Expeditionary Combat Forces in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations and serves as the core Navy battle staff for crisis response and major combat operations. They plan and execute coastal riverine, explosive ordnance disposal, diving operations, construction and Navy expeditionary logistics operations. NEFCPAC is capable of providing the fleet diverse warfighting capabilities such as coastal riverine support, explosive ordnance disposal, diving, salvage and construction capabilities, as well as expeditionary intelligence and logistics in near-shore waters, littoral regions and inland areas.  
<https://www.cpf.navy.mil/news.aspx/130490>

[Return to Index](#)

#### EXECUTIVE/LEGISLATIVE:

##### 19. President Delivers Elaborate Celebration

President's 'Salute to America' featured flyovers by military jets, armored vehicles, tanks and fireworks (WALL STREET JOURNAL 05 JUL 19) ... Alex Leary and Stephanie Armour

WASHINGTON—President Trump delivered his elaborate Fourth of July celebration, defying critics and honoring the military.

Rain fell throughout a hot, muggy afternoon in the nation's capital, but thousands showed up to hear the evening address, part of Mr. Trump's "Salute to America" that featured flyovers of booming jet fighters, military bands, tanks, armored vehicles and fireworks. Hundreds of troops were on hand as well as invited guests.

"Together, we are part of one of the greatest stories ever told—the story of America," Mr. Trump said from the Lincoln Memorial. "Today, just as it did 243 years ago, the future of American Freedom rests on the shoulders of men and women willing to defend it."

In a 45-minute address, Mr. Trump stuck to a script designed to celebrate nationhood and the military, but avoided the political messaging many critics had warned he might include. Instead, the president traced the nation's history from the Founding Fathers to the moon landing. He reveled in a legacy of rock 'n' roll, Western movies, the Super Bowl, the assembly line and the "mighty American automobile." He named key figures from Harriet Tubman to Jackie Robinson, Douglas MacArthur and John Glenn.

The president honored firefighters and law enforcement, including the border patrol, and made an appeal for youths to "make a great statement in life" and join the military.

Mr. Trump singled out each branch of the military—the Coast Guard, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and Army—recounting heroic actions and battles before pausing for flyovers by aircraft from each branch, a band playing service songs.

"We will always be the people who defeated a tyrant, crossed a continent, harnessed science, took to the skies and soared into the heavens," Mr. Trump said, the crowd often responding with chants of "U.S.A., U.S.A., USA."

"We will never forget that we are Americans, and the future belongs to us," the president said.

It was among the most elaborate Independence Day events ever staged on the National Mall, and Mr. Trump had a personal hand in the planning, predicting in a tweet it would be "one of the biggest celebrations in the history of our Country."

The event sought to fulfill a long-held goal of Mr. Trump to showcase the nation's military with the similar gusto of a Paris Bastille Day parade he watched in 2017.

"As long as we stay true to our cause, as long as we remember our great history, and as long as we never stop fighting for a better future, then there will be nothing that America cannot do," Mr. Trump said.

Protesters, including activists with an 18-foot "Baby Trump" balloon, also took to the Mall with anti-Trump and antiwar messages. The event has been the target of criticism from Democrats for its cost—estimated in the millions of dollars but not confirmed by the administration—and the use of military hardware for a traditionally nonpartisan celebration. The Pentagon has said it wouldn't have cost estimates until next week at the earliest.

The event provided a platform for Mr. Trump, who announced his re-election campaign last month, to reach millions of potential viewers at a time when a number of polls show his approval rating at around 40%. An earlier effort by the president to stage a military parade fizzled over concerns about cost and logistics.

The celebration included a parade earlier in the day, and planned fireworks that were donated by two private companies. Also featured were two Bradley Fighting Vehicles and two 60-ton Abrams tanks,

Servello was accused of making unwanted sexual passes while dressed as Santa at the party. No charges were filed against him. He retired from the Navy last May at the rank of commander. Servello had previously worked for Moran as a public affairs officer.

In an interview Sunday evening, Servello said he was aware of Moran's decision to retire.

"It's hard not to feel disappointment and disbelief," he said. "This is terrible news for the Navy, and beyond that, I don't have anything to add."

Moran said his decision to decline his appointment and to instead retire was based also on what he called an open investigation into "the nature of some of my personal email correspondence over the past couple of years." He also cited the Servello relationship, without using his name.

"To be clear," Moran added, "my decision to maintain this relationship was in no way an endorsement or tacit approval of" the kind of misconduct that Servello was disciplined for. "I understand how toxic it can be to any team when inappropriate behavior goes unrecognized and unchecked. Every Sailor is entitled to serve in an environment free of harassment or intimidation."

With Moran's departure, Richardson will extend his tenure as Navy chief and Spencer said he would recommend a new candidate for nomination by Trump and consideration by the Senate. Richardson's official retirement date is in September.

Moran is a naval aviator by training. He has been serving as the deputy chief of naval operations, the No. 2 uniformed position in the Navy behind Richardson. He was nominated in April to succeed Richardson and was confirmed for the post by the Senate in May.

Moran's downfall adds to an unusually long list of leadership questions facing the Pentagon, which has been operating without a Senate-confirm defense secretary since Jim Mattis resigned in December 2018. There also is no confirmed deputy secretary of defense, and several other key leadership positions are about to turn over.

Mark Esper, who had been Army secretary, is now the acting secretary of defense, but Trump has not yet sent his nomination to the Senate.

Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford is due to step down as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff this fall. His intended successor, Army Gen. Mark Milley, is scheduled to testify at his confirmation hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee on Thursday.

Also on Thursday, Gen. David Berger is scheduled to take over as commandant of the Marine Corps, succeeding Gen. Robert Neller.

Air Force Gen. Paul Selva, the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is due to retire on July 31. Gen. John Hyten has been nominated to succeed Selva, but he has not yet had a confirmation hearing.

<https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/wireStory/admiral-lead-navy-retire-bad-judgment-cited-64184086>

Return to Index

21. Economy Gets Tough On Military Recruiters

Pull of private sector increases competition

(WASHINGTON TIMES 07 JUL 19) ... Ben Wolfgang

A directive to recruit more troops coupled with a thriving U.S. economy has sparked a "perfect storm" and created one of the toughest environments in decades for uniformed recruiters, Pentagon officials and outside analysts say, as the military doles out bigger bonuses and tweaks its approach in order to attract the nation's best young talent.

Booming employment markets — the U.S. economy added a strong 224,000 jobs in June, the government said Friday — and soaring stock values on Wall Street traditionally have made it difficult for military recruiters to pitch men and women on a career in the armed forces, according to researchers, who say the correlation has held true for at least a half century.

But the sustained strength of the U.S. economy over the past five years has taken the challenge to a whole new level, and the true depth of the problem came into focus last year when the Army fell short of its recruiting goal for the first time in over a decade.

The commander in chief even took time during his Fourth of July "Salute to America" event to pitch the idea of military service and on Friday was already claiming results.

"Our job numbers are so good that our military has a hard time getting people," Mr. Trump acknowledged to reporters on the White House lawn Friday, "and I think really you're going to see a big spike. I've already heard it, a lot of people calling in."

The Pentagon could use the help.

The Army set a goal of 76,500 recruits and pulled in fewer than 70,000, according to Defense Department figures.

The Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps hit their goals last fiscal year, though the services barely cleared the bar in some cases. The Navy's goal was 39,000 and signed up 39,018 recruits, Pentagon numbers

[harbor-identified/](#)

[Return to Index](#)

#### ENVIRONMENTAL/INSTALLATIONS:

29. Deteriorated Explosives Found On SUBASE Safely Detonated  
(NEW LONDON DAY 27 JUN 19) ... Erica Moser

Groton — Naval Submarine Base New London has resumed normal operations and reopened areas that were closed part of Thursday following a controlled detonation of deteriorated explosives, which officials said occurred at 3:10 p.m. after the explosives were discovered about 11 a.m.

A routine inspection of a bunker Thursday morning found that about three pounds of explosives used for military working dog training had deteriorated, the Navy New London Public Affairs Office said in a news release.

The base fire and security departments, along with the Explosive Ordinance Disposal team from Newport, were immediately called to the scene, according to the release. They established safety boundaries and began planning for the controlled detonation, which ultimately occurred in an uninhabited forest area of the base's northeast quadrant.

Base leadership also informed Ledyard and Groton town officials of the situation.

The base's North Lake Recreation Area, Goose Run Golf Course and Thames View Marina were evacuated until after the detonation, the public affairs office said.

The Ledyard Police Department posted on Facebook that it briefly closed Route 12 near the base as a precautionary measure.

"We appreciate the patience and understanding of the base and local community as we safely resolved this issue," SUBASE Commanding Officer Capt. Todd Moore said. "The Navy New London team and our local military and community partners responded to today's event with professionalism. We train for these type of scenarios. It all paid dividends today."

<https://www.theday.com/policefirecourts/20190627/deteriorated-explosives-found-on-subase-safely-detonated>

[Return to Index](#)

#### OUTREACH:

30. Blue Angels Will Participate In 4th Of July Event In Washington  
(CNN.COM 27 JUN 19) ... Ryan Browne

Updated 6:30 PM ET, Thu June 27, 2019

The US Navy's flight demonstration team the Blue Angels will participate in the July Fourth celebrations in Washington, DC, this year, US officials have confirmed to CNN.

The event is being referred to as a "Salute to America," and will feature fireworks and a speech from President Donald Trump.

Other military assets are also expected to be involved with one military official saying that F-35 jets will likely participate.

Interior Secretary David Bernhardt teased the squadron's participation in the event, tweeting Thursday that a "big announcement" is coming Friday along with a photo of the Blue Angels.

Twitter Ads info and privacy

The plane used as Air Force One will also fly above the National Mall on the Fourth of July as a part of a military flyover during the day's festivities. Since Trump will be on the ground watching rather than on the plane, the aircraft won't officially be Air Force One.

In February, Trump told Americans to "HOLD THE DATE!" for his July Fourth plans, tweeting that there will be a "major fireworks display, entertainment and an address by your favorite President, me!"

Earlier in his administration, Trump had announced his intent to hold a military parade in Washington, DC, however he canceled those plans following estimates that put the cost of such a parade at tens of millions of dollars.

Trump blamed local Washington officials for the high costs of the canceled parade.

A US military official told CNN Thursday that the cost of using military assets in this year's July Fourth celebration was estimated to be less than one million dollars and that the military personnel involved are to be drawn from units based in the Washington area, helping to drive down costs.

The Department of Interior previously confirmed that Trump will give his "Salute to America" address on the National Mall this July Fourth, an unusual move by the President.

**From:** [OSD Pentagon PA Mailbox Media Analysis](#)  
**Subject:** Morning News of Note 3 July 2019  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 3, 2019 5:06:03 AM  
**Attachments:** [Morning News of Note 3 July 2019.pdf](#)

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Note: There will be no Morning News of Note on Thursday. It will resume Friday, July 5.

## MORNING NEWS OF NOTE

As of 0430 Hours, July 3

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### Tweets of Note

President Trump tweeted: "Big 4th of July in D.C. 'Salute to America.' The Pentagon & our great Military Leaders are thrilled to be doing this & showing to the American people, among other things, the strongest and most advanced Military anywhere in the World. Incredible Flyovers & biggest ever Fireworks!" On Latin America, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said: "I am thankful for the important humanitarian work of @USNavy and #USNSComfort. @StateDept proudly supports your mission to bring medical care to those in need, especially those suffering from the crisis in #Venezuela caused by Maduro and his corrupt regime. #EnduringPromise." And U.S. Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad wrote: "Yesterday @SecPompeo unequivocally condemned the horrific attack in Kabul. On @Twitter & in media, the photos of innocent #Afghan children, scared & hurt, drive home a sense of profound urgency to resolve remaining issues here in Doha. Afghan people deserve an end to the violence."

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### Table of Contents

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1. Pentagon says China missile test in South China Sea 'disturbing'

Reuters, July 2 | Not Attributed

The Pentagon said on Tuesday a recent Chinese missile launch in the disputed South China Sea was "disturbing" and contrary to Chinese pledges that it would not militarize the disputed waterway.

2. Despite Turkey's assurances, U.S. still eyes sanctions, F-35 exit

Reuters, July 3 | Phil Stewart and Humeysa Pamuk

The Trump administration still plans to impose sanctions on Turkey and remove it from a critical fighter jet program if the NATO ally acquires Russian air defenses, U.S. officials told Reuters, despite the Turkish president's assurances to the contrary.

3. Bound for Iran, Tankers Vanish And Return Full

New York Times, July 3, Pg. A1 | Michael Forsythe and Ronen Bergman

As the Trump administration's sanctions on Iranian oil and petrochemical products have taken hold, some of the world's shipping fleets have defied the restrictions by "going dark" when they pick up cargo in Iranian ports, according to commercial analysts who track shipping data and intelligence from authorities in Israel, a country that backs the Trump crackdown.

#### LETHALITY

4. The future of U.S. defense strategy: A conversation with General Paul J. Selva

Brookings.edu, July 2 | Adam Twardowski

During his tenure as 10th vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Paul J. Selva has played a central role in helping the U.S. military harness new technologies that will shape the wars of the future. He has warned that

# MORNING NEWS OF NOTE

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## Table of Contents

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## **7. Brand New Marine One Helicopter to Make Debut at Trump's July 4th Parade**

***Other aircraft slated to fly over include the B-2 stealth bomber, F-22 Raptor and Air Force One***  
DefenseOne.com, July 2 | Marcus Weisgerber

The U.S. military's new Marine One helicopter is scheduled to make its public debut Thursday as part of the military July 4 Washington flyover called for by President Trump.

Even though it's still in testing and not expected to fly Trump until at least late next year, the VH-92 is slated to join the VC-25A, a Boeing 747 better known as Air Force One when the president is on board. Two sources with knowledge of the military's plans confirmed the VH-92 is scheduled to participate in Trump's "Salute to America." ABC News first reported the new helicopter would participate.

An Air Force B-2 Spirit stealth bomber is also slated to fly over, CNN reports. Fighter jets, including the F-22 Raptor, F-35 Joint Strike Fighter and the Navy's Blue Angels flight demonstration team is also slated to participate in the festivities.

Even though the new VH-92 is not ready to fly the president, the rest of the aircraft already sports the iconic dark green livery that's become synonymous with the aircraft of Marine Helicopter Squadron One. The Marines are testing three of the helicopters, made by Sikorsky, which is owned by defense contractor Lockheed Martin.

One of the new Marine One helicopters made a series of test landings at the White House in September. More recently, President Trump watched one of the helicopters make a test landing on the South Lawn last month.

While the cost of a new Air Force One plane has drawn the president's scorn, the new Marine One helicopters are far from cheap. An April 11 Government Accountability Office report said it would cost taxpayers \$4.95 billion to develop and buy 23 new helicopters. That's more than \$215 million each. But the cost of the project has actually fallen 4.5 percent from 2014 estimates, GAO said.

Just last month, the Pentagon ordered six of the helicopters from Sikorsky.

The project has been much more stable than its previous effort to replace the VH-3D Sea King helicopters, which have been flying presidents since the 1970s. The Pentagon spent \$3.2 billion on the prior before then-Defense Secretary Robert Gates canceled the project in 2009.

The new Marine One — based on Sikorsky's commercial S-92, a helicopter widely used in the oil and gas industry to fly workers to offshore platforms — has not been without problems of its own. For instance, GAO revealed in April 2018 that the new presidential helicopters were so powerful that they could tear up the White House lawn.

killing all 118 crewmembers. Putin, who was in his first year of his presidency, came under heavy criticism at the time when he failed to immediately interrupt his vacation to take charge of the disaster.

[RETURN TO TOP](#)

## EXECUTIVE/LEGISLATIVE

### **18. Park Service to divert \$2.5 million for Fourth**

Washington Post, July 3, Pg. A1 | Juliet Eilperin, Josh Dawsey and Dan Lamothe

The National Park Service is diverting nearly \$2.5 million in entrance and recreation fees primarily intended to improve parks across the country to cover costs associated with President Trump's Independence Day celebration Thursday on the Mall, according to two individuals familiar with the arrangement.

Trump administration officials have consistently refused to say how much taxpayers will have to pay for the expanded celebration on the Mall this year, which the president has dubbed the "Salute to America." The two individuals, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter, confirmed the transfer of the Park Service funds Tuesday.

The diverted park fees represent just a fraction of the extra costs the government faces as a result of the event, which will include displays of military hardware, flyovers by an array of jets including Air Force One, the deployment of tanks on the Mall and an extended pyrotechnics show. By comparison, according to former Park Service deputy director Denis P. Galvin, the entire Fourth of July celebration on the Mall typically costs the agency about \$2 million.

For Trump's planned speech at the Lincoln Memorial, the White House is distributing VIP tickets to Republican donors and political appointees, prompting objections from Democratic lawmakers who argue that the president has turned the annual celebration into a campaign-like event.

The Republican National Committee and Trump's reelection campaign confirmed Tuesday that they had received passes they were handing out for the event.

"We've never seen anything like this," Sen. Tom Udall (N.M.), the top Democrat on the Senate Appropriations subcommittee on the interior, environment and related agencies, said in a phone interview. "No ticketed political event should be paid for with taxpayer dollars."

The White House referred questions about the celebration to the Interior Department, which declined to comment.

celebration. As late as last week, according to two defense officials, the military was planning to have only about 300 service members involved in the celebration, primarily from drill teams and bands.

"The military isn't in charge of this thing," said one defense official, who also spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue. "This is a Department of Interior event that DOD is giving support to, and the White House is giving guidance on how they'd like us to celebrate the Fourth."

The "Salute to America" marks the culmination of Trump's two-year quest to mount a military-style extravaganza inspired by his visit to a Bastille Day celebration in Paris in 2017. His previous efforts to stage a Veterans Day military parade down Pennsylvania Avenue in 2018 were scuttled after estimated costs ballooned to the tens of millions of dollars.

The Pentagon has referred virtually all questions about the celebration and the military's involvement to the White House - a function, officials said, of the president's desire to have some surprises during the event.

"We are referring everyone to the White House, who will be making announcements about the event timeline and participants," said Jonathan Rath Hoffman, the Pentagon's chief spokesman.

But the department is devoting significant resources to the celebration that are likely to measure in the millions of dollars, given the additional construction, transportation of heavy equipment and personnel, additional security, the price of fuel, and overtime pay that federal employees will receive.

The event will include appearances by the Blue Angels, an F-35 jet from the Navy, at least one aircraft from Marine Helicopter Squadron One and one of the planes used in the fleet for Air Force One, the specialized airliner that carries the president.

It will also include a B-2 stealth bomber, the batwing-shaped jet that debuted in the 1990s, and F-22 Raptor fighter jets, said a defense official, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss plans before they are announced. Those details were first reported Tuesday by CNN.

*--Michelle Ye Hee Lee and Damian Paletta contributed to this report*

[RETURN TO TOP](#)

## TWEETS OF NOTE

Twitter, July 2

**President Trump, @realDonaldTrump:** “Big 4th of July in D.C. “Salute to America.” The Pentagon & our great Military Leaders are thrilled to be doing this & showing to the American people, among other things, the strongest and most advanced Military anywhere in the World. Incredible Flyovers & biggest ever Fireworks!” (7/2, 1025)

**Rep. Ro Khanna (D-CA), @RoKhanna:** “Only Congress has the constitutional right to decide on matters of war and peace. If Trump tries to bypass Congress to go to war with Iran, my NDAA amendment will block the funding for military action.” (7/2, 2022)

**Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), @SpeakerPelosi:** “.@realDonaldTrump must take immediate action to improve conditions for children & families at the border.” (7/2, 1656)

**Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC), @LindseyGrahamSC:** “To be clear – the situation at the southern border is out of control because Congress won’t do its job and change our laws.” (7/2, 1634)

**Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC), @LindseyGrahamSC:** “The men and women serving our nation at the border are American heroes who are being slandered by certain politicians who have never solved a problem in their political lives. The men and women serving at the border deserve to be respected, not slandered.” (7/2, 1635)

**U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton, @AmbJohnBolton:** “The United States continues to provide humanitarian assistance to the region. We stand with Interim President Juan Guaido and the democratically-elected National Assembly as they seek to rid Venezuela of Maduro’s repression and pursue free and fair elections.” (7/2, 1549)

**U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton, @AmbJohnBolton:** “Great meeting today with FM Atamkulov from Kazakhstan to strengthen our already robust relationship. Kazakhstan is a highly-valued partner in Central Asia, working with us to advance energy, economic, security and other regional priorities.” (7/2, 1506)

**U.S. Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad, @US4AfghanPeace:** “Yesterday @SecPompeo unequivocally condemned the horrific attack in Kabul. On @Twitter & in media, the photos of innocent #Afghan children, scared & hurt, drive home a sense of profound urgency to resolve remaining issues here in Doha. Afghan people deserve an end to the violence” (7/2, 1547)

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## MORNING NEWS OF NOTE

As of 0430 Hours, July 5

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### Tweets of Note

Vice President Pence said: "It was wonderful to see our military celebrating #IndependenceDay at the Salute to America. Thank you to our military and their families for their patriotic sacrifices made to protect our great Nation. God bless our troops!" Separately, Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) tweeted: "Incredible #July4th2019 experience being with the men and women of the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln. To witness carrier flight operations up close is a once in a lifetime — never to be forgotten — experience." And U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton wrote: "Excellent news: UK has detained the supertanker Grace I laden with Iranian oil bound for Syria in violation of EU sanctions. America & our allies will continue to prevent regimes in Tehran & Damascus from profiting off this illicit trade."

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### Table of Contents

#### TOP NEWS

1. Military spectacle, and nonpartisan performance

Washington Post, July 5, Pg. A1 | Toluse Olorunnipa and Anne Gearan

With fighter jets soaring above him as he extolled American greatness in a speech at the Lincoln Memorial, President Trump finally got the kind of military celebration he has sought for the past two years.

2. Missile Defense May Get Assist From Alliance

New York Times, July 5, Pg. A1 | Julian E. Barnes

NATO military officials are exploring whether to upgrade their defenses to make them capable of shooting down newly deployed Russian intermediate-range nuclear missiles after a landmark arms treaty dissolves next month, according to three European officials.

3. Gibraltar Detains Oil Supertanker Bound for Syria

New York Times, July 5, Pg. A7 | Palko Karasz and Raphael Minder

The British marines and the port authorities in Gibraltar on Thursday detained a supertanker that was carrying crude oil from Iran to Syria, a violation of European Union sanctions against Syria. The seizure of the ship threatened to raise tensions between Iran and the West. Spain said the vessel had been detained at the request of the United States, and Iran summoned the British ambassador over what a Foreign Ministry spokesman called an "illegal" seizure.

#### LETHALITY

4. In Trump's 'Salute to America,' the promoter in chief makes a recruiting pitch for the military

Washington Post Online, July 5 | Dan Lamothe

Flanked by armored vehicles and a coterie of senior military officers, President Trump made an Independence Day pitch at the Lincoln Memorial: Join the U.S. military.

5. Southern California rocked by strongest quake in two decades

Agence France-Presse, July 4 | Not Attributed

Southern California was rocked by its largest earthquake in two decades on Thursday, a 6.4-magnitude tremor that



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### 5. Southern California rocked by strongest quake in two decades

*Agence France-Presse, July 4 | Not Attributed*

Southern California was rocked by its largest earthquake in two decades on Thursday, a 6.4-magnitude tremor that caused "substantial damage" at a military facility but otherwise only minor injuries in the sparsely populated area. Thursday's epicenter was in or on the edge of the US Navy's sprawling desert bomb testing range known as China Lake. An official at China Lake told AFP there was "substantial damage" to their facilities, including fires, water leaks and spills of hazardous materials.

### 6. Danger Grows for U.S. Military Drones

*Wall Street Journal, July 5, Pg. A7 | Ben Kesling*

Unmanned U.S. surveillance aircraft, with their suites of advanced technology, are the high-price product of years of domestic drone development during an era of nearly uncontested airspace. So when Iran on June 20 shot down one of the Pentagon's top spy drones, it signaled the U.S. may need a new strategy for rivals who are better-prepared than the extremist groups it has become accustomed to operating against.

### 7. After Navy SEAL's Acquittal, Fears That War Crimes Will Go Unreported

*New York Times, July 4, Pg. A13 | Dave Philipps*

Edward Gallagher, a decorated member of the Navy SEALs, was pleased and relieved when he emerged from his court-martial on Wednesday with just a demotion and time served, and not the life sentence he could have faced if convicted on the most serious charges. But many in the Navy were in no mood to celebrate.

## ALLIANCES/PARTNERSHIPS

### 8. U.S. Upgrades Ukrainian Ports To Fit American Warships

*BreakingDefense.com, July 3 | Paul McLeary*

## TOP NEWS

### 1. **Military spectacle, and nonpartisan performance**

Washington Post, July 5, Pg. A1 | Toluse Olorunnipa and Anne Gearan

With fighter jets soaring above him as he extolled American greatness in a speech at the Lincoln Memorial, President Trump finally got the kind of military celebration he has sought for the past two years.

The Fourth of July extravaganza was created at Trump's request and designed to suit his whims, but the president largely refrained from using it to praise himself - abandoning his typical self-promotional style to applaud the military and ordinary Americans who have contributed to the nation's advancement.

"As we gather this evening in the joy of freedom, we remember that all share a truly extraordinary heritage," Trump said in a 47-minute speech that was dampened and delayed by a downpour on the Mall. "Together, we are part of one of the greatest stories ever told - the story of America. It is the epic tale of a great nation whose people have risked everything for what they know is right and what they know is true."

Trump's "Salute to America" was clouded in controversy in part amid complaints that the president was inserting himself into a typically nonpolitical event and using a taxpayer-funded celebration of military power to pursue his own partisan objectives. The event featured a VIP section for Republican donors and supporters, and a display of military tanks and aircraft Trump had personally ordered, despite reluctance from some defense officials concerned about politicizing the Pentagon.

But Trump largely steered clear of partisanship and instead spoke of the history of America's founding while reveling in the displays of military might from the U.S. armed forces.

For months, the president had taken special interest in the event, receiving regular briefings and requesting specific features, from M1 Abrams tanks to Air Force One. When it was over, Trump got the sweeping visuals he might want for 2020 campaign ads in aerial shots of crowds lining the Mall. Shortly after returning to the White House after the speech, the president took to Twitter to attack his critics, decry flag-burning "communists," and post photos of the crowd size at his speech.

"July 4th is being turned into a big campaign event," Julian Zelizer, a professor of history and public affairs at Princeton, said on Twitter Thursday before Trump's speech.

## LETHALITY

### **4. In Trump's 'Salute to America,' the promoter in chief makes a recruiting pitch for the military**

Washington Post Online, July 5 | Dan Lamothe

Flanked by armored vehicles and a coterie of senior military officers, President Trump made an Independence Day pitch at the Lincoln Memorial: Join the U.S. military.

It was an unexpected turn in the "Salute to America," an event he envisioned and planned. Steeped in military history and appreciation, the address lauded specific achievements in each service's past, acknowledged the presence of Medal of Honor recipients in the crowd and urged youths to serve in uniform in the future.

"They and thousands before us served with immense distinction, and they loved every minute of that service," Trump said of the veterans decorated for valor. "To young Americans across our country, now is your chance to join our military and make a truly great statement in life. And you should do it."

The remark garnered some cheers from the crowd gathered before him. But it also hit on a reality for the Pentagon: Military officials are increasingly concerned about finding recruits. The challenges include increasing obesity across the nation, a growing economy that has provided other job opportunities, and an overall declining desire among young Americans to serve.

Enter Trump. While the size, scope and multimillion-dollar cost of his Fourth of July extravaganza proved controversial, it also put the military front and center. The Pentagon spent weeks fending off questions about the president's wish to have a full air show and tanks parked in Washington, but it also will likely benefit from the exposure.

In a Defense Department that spends millions of dollars each year to advertise for recruits, military officials quietly carried out the White House's directives for the event, setting aside flight hours designated for training to fly aircraft in the Salute, two defense officials said, speaking on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue.

It isn't uncommon for the Pentagon to do the same for a flyover at an event like the Super Bowl, but this was unique in that it effectively included seven flyovers — one for each of the five military services, plus Air Force One leading off the evening and the Blue Angels closing the event. It also included aircraft that are rarely seen, including the B-2 stealth bomber and the Marine Corps' new VH-92 presidential helicopter.

Trump, in a tweet Wednesday, defended the costs associated with the celebration, saying they will be "very little compared to what it is worth."

"We own the planes, we have the pilots, the airport is right next door (Andrews), all we need is the fuel," Trump tweeted. "We own the tanks and all. Fireworks are donated by two of the greats. Nice!"

But that's only part of the story.

Some of the aircraft, such as the B-2 Spirit stealth bomber, won't actually be landing at Joint Base Andrews. A defense official, speaking on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue, said that the plane will travel several hours from its home at Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri, appear over Washington and return without ever landing. It costs about \$140,000 per hour to fly.

The Blue Angels will travel from their base in Pensacola, Fla., to participate, and typically send eight F/A-18 Hornets to events in an effort to make sure six are ready to go. Each Hornet costs about \$10,000 per hours to fly — a cost that adds up not only during the Salute to America, but also in traveling to Washington. A C-130 with the nickname "Fat Albert" also travels with the Blue Angels in a support role, adding another cost.

The defense official said that the Pentagon wasn't inclined to push back on the requests from the White House. Although flying the planes are expensive, the services often perform flyovers over events such as the Super Bowl, and consider doing so both healthy for community relations and helpful to recruiting.

"We do this sort of stuff all the time," the defense official said.

But rarely do flyovers include so many aircraft.

The cost of the event drew increasing scrutiny from Democrats on Wednesday, with some pointing out reports that the White House is distributing VIP tickets for Trump's speech at the Lincoln Memorial to Republican donors and political appointees.

Presidential candidate Pete Buttigieg, who enlisted in the Navy Reserve after college, criticized the event while on the campaign trail.

"This business of diverting money and military assets to use them as some kind of prop, to prop up a presidential ego, is not reflecting well on our country," he said.

Sen. Robert Menendez (D-N.J.) called the situation "shameful."



The downsides of the phased approach are also well known - because it has been tried before. As happened in the Clinton administration, a freeze can lead to a stalemate, North Korean cheating and ultimately a collapse of the interim agreement. Also, if there's no next phase, North Korea keeps its nuclear weapons for the foreseeable future.

"It's always been the argument that if you go in phases, they will still have nuclear weapons, but you can't do it any other way," said former nuclear negotiator Joel Wit. "And going in phases can be a good thing because it allows you to check their performance each step of the way."

Of course, there's always the risk that Trump could end up taking the small deal and pretending it's a big victory. And as far as our own intelligence community is concerned, Kim has no intention of fully denuclearizing anyway, so a small deal might be all we can get.

But if it's really all at once or nothing, the result will be a quick end to the diplomacy and a return to the policy of maximum pressure, high tensions, heated rhetoric and potential conflict. If the negotiations fail, that's where we will end up anyway.

The chances are slim that Pompeo and Biegun can get a small deal good enough for Trump to publicly defend, but they should be allowed to try.

[RETURN TO TOP](#)

## TWEETS OF NOTE

Twitter, July 3-4

**President Trump, @realDonaldTrump:** "A great crowd of tremendous Patriots this evening, all the way back to the Washington Monument! #SaluteToAmerica" (7/4, 2028)

**President Trump, @realDonaldTrump:** "Been fully briefed on earthquake in Southern California. All seems to be very much under control!" (7/4, 2028)

**President Trump, @realDonaldTrump:** "Looks like a lot of people already heading to SALUTE TO AMERICA at Lincoln Memorial. It will be well worth the trip and wait. See you there at 6:00 P.M. Amazing music and bands. Thank you ARMY!" (7/4, 2028)

**President Trump, @realDonaldTrump:** "People are coming from far and wide to join us today and tonight for what is turning out to be one of the biggest celebrations in the history of our Country, SALUTE TO AMERICA, an all day event at the Lincoln Memorial, culminating with large scale flyovers of the most modern....." (7/4, 0841)

**President Trump, @realDonaldTrump:** “....and advanced aircraft anywhere in the World. Perhaps even Air Force One will do a low & loud sprint over the crowd. That will start at 6:00P.M., but be there early. Then, at 9:00 P.M., a great (to put it mildly) fireworks display. I will speak on behalf of our great Country!” (7/4, 0841)

**President Trump, @realDonaldTrump:** “Iran has just issued a New Warning. Rouhani says that they will Enrich Uranium to “any amount we want” if there is no new Nuclear Deal. Be careful with the threats, Iran. They can come back to bite you like nobody has been bitten before!” (7/3, 1633)

**President Trump, @realDonaldTrump:** “Congratulations to Navy Seal Eddie Gallagher, his wonderful wife Andrea, and his entire family. You have been through much together. Glad I could help!” (7/3, 1047)

**President Trump, @realDonaldTrump:** “The cost of our great Salute to America tomorrow will be very little compared to what it is worth. We own the planes, we have the pilots, the airport is right next door (Andrews), all we need is the fuel. We own the tanks and all. Fireworks are donated by two of the greats. Nice!” (7/3, 1040)

**President Trump, @realDonaldTrump:** “We have the greatest economy anywhere in the world. We have the greatest military anywhere in the world. Not bad!” (7/3, 0827)

**Vice President Pence, @VP:** “It was wonderful to see our military celebrating #IndependenceDay at the Salute to America. Thank you to our military and their families for their patriotic sacrifices made to protect our great Nation. God bless our troops!” (7/4, 2138)

**Vice President Pence, @VP:** “Proud to join President @realDonaldTrump at the Lincoln Memorial today for the #SalutetoAmerica. We will always be proud to honor and pay tribute to this great country and those who serve and sacrifice to protect it. God bless the USA and happy #IndependenceDay!” (7/4, 2023)

**U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton, @AmbJohnBolton:** “Excellent news: UK has detained the supertanker Grace I laden with Iranian oil bound for Syria in violation of EU sanctions. America & our allies will continue to prevent regimes in Tehran & Damascus from profiting off this illicit trade.” (7/4, 2023)

**U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton, @AmbJohnBolton:** “Today the Treasury Department sanctioned Cubametales, a Cuban state-run oil import & export company, for its continued import of oil from Venezuela. We will continue to sever the ties between Cuba and Venezuela that contribute to repression.” (7/3, 1958)

Controversy has been building for years over the South China Sea -- essentially, 1.3 million square miles of international or contested waters and islands. China has been building runways and military facilities on reclaimed shoals and sandbars there to reinforce its territorial claims in the sea, something the US says endangers free passage. These facilities also give China a greater strike range by allowing it to deploy aircraft from previously unoccupied territory.

14. China says briefed by U.S. on latest Trump-Kim meeting

Reuters, July 5 | Not Attributed

China has received a briefing from the United States on the latest meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, China's Foreign Ministry said on Saturday, in a call between two senior diplomats.

15. Huawei Disputes U.S. Cyber Firm's Findings of Flaws in Gear

Wall Street Journal Online, July 5 | Dustin Volz and Dan Strumpf

China's Huawei Technologies Co. disputed findings from a U.S. cybersecurity firm that its gear is far more likely to contain flaws than equipment from rival companies, characterizing the analysis as incomplete and inaccurate. Finite State, based in Columbus, Ohio, found that over half of the nearly 10,000 firmware images encoded into more than 500 variations of Huawei network-equipment devices tested by researchers contained at least one exploitable vulnerability. Firmware is the software that powers the hardware components of a computer.

16. Libya Uncovers Alleged Russian Plot to Meddle in African Votes

Bloomberg News, July 5 | Samer Khalil Al-Atrush, Ilya Arkhipov and Henry Meyer

Libyan security forces have arrested two men accused of working for a Russian troll farm seeking to influence elections in the oil exporter and other African countries. A letter from the state prosecutor of the internationally-backed Tripoli government to a Libyan security chief said the men were involved in "securing a meeting" with Saif al-Islam al-Qaddafi, the fugitive son of the ousted dictator and a potential presidential candidate who enjoys the backing of some officials in Moscow.

## EXECUTIVE/LEGISLATIVE

17. Trump predicts military will see 'big spike' in recruitment thanks to his July 4 celebration

The Hill Online, July 5 | Aris Folley

President Trump said the military will soon see a "big spike" in recruitment numbers coming off of the steam from his "Salute to America" Fourth of July celebration Thursday.

## SECURITY ENVIRONMENT

18. U.S. Calls for Special Meeting of U.N. Atomic Agency Over Iran

Wall Street Journal Online, July 5 | Laurence Norman

The U.S. called for a special session of the United Nations atomic agency board, increasing the pressure on Europe and others to take a stand against Iran after Tehran said it breached the 2015 nuclear treaty.

19. Violence escalates in strategic Afghan province as U.S. continues peace talks

Stars and Stripes Online, July 6 | Phillip Walter Wellman

Stability has deteriorated sharply in the key southern province of Kandahar, home to a sprawling U.S. military airfield, following the assassination last fall of a U.S.-backed police chief, local officials said. Last weekend, Taliban fighters rammed four explosives-packed Humvees into a government compound during a pre-dawn raid in eastern Maruf district, killing 19, including 11 police officers. It wounded two dozen other officers, the Interior Ministry said, though the Taliban touted higher casualty numbers.

20. US banks on Libya strongman Haftar, experts say

Agence France-Presse, July 5 | Philippe Agret

Washington's refusal to condemn an airstrike on a detention centre that killed dozens of migrants blamed on Libyan strongman Khalifa Haftar by his rivals shows tacit US support, experts say.

21. In Libya, migrants trapped in war zone

Washington Post, July 6, Pg. A1 | Sudarsan Raghavan

*The Hill Online, July 5 | Aris Folley*

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### **21. In Libya, migrants trapped in war zone**

*Washington Post, July 6, Pg. A1 | Sudarsan Raghavan*

Thousands of African migrants who have endured deprivation and even torture in a bid to reach Europe are now facing even greater peril, trapped in the middle of the renewed warfare that has gripped this capital city for three months.

### **22. In Sudan, a Secret Meeting and Public Rage Propelled a Power-Sharing Deal**

*New York Times, July 6, Pg. A1 | Declan Walsh*

A month ago Sudan's pro-democracy movement was battered and in disarray. Protesters were in hiding after paramilitary troops rampaged through the main protest area, looting, raping and shooting dead scores of people. The internet had been shut down. Bodies were being dredged from the Nile. Then

Shugalei is a political consultant from St. Petersburg who has experience in Africa and is known to work for Prigozhin, said Petr Bystrov, a senior member of the Russian Association of Political Consultants. "He's a fairly highly-qualified expert," Bystrov said by phone.

#### Putin's Indicted 'Chef' Descends on Africa, Mercenaries in Tow

Alexander Malkevich, the head of the Foundation for the Defense of National Values, was previously editor-in-chief of USA Really news website, which has been named by the U.S. Treasury department as one of the outlets linked to Prigozhin and engaged in efforts to post content on divisive political issues. Malkevich said he had left USA Really in February and denied any link to Prigozhin.

#### *Qaddafi Comeback*

Saif al-Islam, one-time Libyan heir apparent, was held by the Zintan militia in western Libya after his capture in the 2011 war that toppled and killed his father. The rebels freed him in 2016 but he's been in hiding ever since and his whereabouts are unknown. An aide did not immediately respond to a call for comment.

Qaddafi's son remains wanted by The Hague-based International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity relating to a violent crackdown on demonstrations against his father's rule and it wasn't clear whether he'd be eligible to run for president given the ambiguity over his legal status.

[RETURN TO TOP](#)

## EXECUTIVE/LEGISLATIVE

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"We had a phenomenal crowd last night, and it was a fantastic evening for our country," Trump said while speaking to reporters on the South Lawn at the White House on Friday. "You're going to have a lot of people being recruited, I think, based on that. We're going to have a lot of -- a lot of people joining our military. And we really needed that."

"Our job numbers are so good that the military has a hard time getting people," Trump also said. "And I think, really, that you're going to see a big spike. I've already heard it -- a lot of people calling in. No place like our military. I think we showed that last night."



**U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, @SecPompeo:** “I enjoyed hosting Washington Diplomatic Corps partners and allies for a bird's-eye view of President Trump's Salute to America and the #July4th fireworks. Thanks for celebrating with us — I look forward to continuing our work to advance a free, peaceful, and prosperous world.” (7/5, 1144)

**Sen. Thom Tillis, @SenThomTillis (R-NC):** “The #NDAA takes meaningful steps to address serious issues with the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, including improving quality of life for servicemembers and their families living in privatized military housing by creating a Tenant Bill of Rights. #FY20NDAA” (7/5, 1057)

**U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, @SecPompeo:** “Today, #Venezuela's Independence Day, we are reminded of the country's prosperous past – and the future the Venezuelan people deserve. The U.S. stands with @jguaido, @AsambleaVE, and all Venezuelans yearning for a return to democracy and a brighter future. #EstamosUnidosVE” (7/5, 0516)

**Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR), @SenTomCotton:** “Thank you to our UK allies and the Royal Marines for halting Iranian smuggling on the high seas.” (7/5, 1035)

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**British Prime Minister Theresa May, @theresa\_may:** “I'm pleased to be here at the Western Balkans Summit in Poznan in Poland. It's in our interest to defend and enhance good governance and security in this region.” (7/5, 1125)

**Russian Mission to NATO, @natomission\_ru:** “Outcome of the #Russia-#NATO Council meeting: It is the choice and decision of the American side, which has refused the concrete and realistic measures of mutual transparency that we had proposed to alleviate concerns that have piled up.” (7/5, 0911)

**Russian Mission to NATO, @natomission\_ru:** “We reminded again of the @CSTO\_ODKB Foreign Min. address to NATO Foreign Ministers on promoting mutual trust & co-operation. This initiative shows that CSTO member states are ready to de-escalation & normalization of the situation in Euro-Atlantic area” (7/5, 0916)

**Russian Mission to NATO, @natomission\_ru:** “On the outcome of the NRC meeting. The NRC meeting on July 5 focused on the security situation in Europe in the context of US announced withdrawal from the INF Treaty on August 2.” (7/5, 0530)

- CJCS Gen. Dunford attends NORTHCOM Change of Command, Colorado Springs, CO - 9 a.m. MDT
- Chief Pentagon Spokesperson White press briefing, PBR - 12 p.m.

Friday, May 25

- SD enhanced honor cordon and meeting with Minister of Defence Claus Hjort Frederiksen of Denmark - 10 a.m.
- POTUS, CNO Adm. Richardson, USECNAV Modly speak @ USNA graduation, Annapolis, MD - 10 a.m.
- VCSAF Gen. Wilson engages with Florida governor and mayors at National Salute to America's Heroes Miami Air and Sea show, Miami, FL - 2 p.m.